



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas



Surfing the net

The final segment looks at how the Internet is being used to help construct the space station. Story on Page 3.



Helping hand

JSC employees generously give to their needy neighbors during the holiday season. Story on Page 4.

Space News Roundup

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The STS-72 crew takes a break during the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test at Launch Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center. From left are, Mission Specialists Winston Scott, Koichi Wakata and Daniel Barry; Commander Brian Duffy; Pilot Brent Jett and Mission Specialist Larry Chiao. During the eight-day flight the crew will retrieve the Japanese Space Flyer Unit, deploy and retrieve the OAST-Flyer and conduct two space walks to test space station tools and techniques.

NASA Photo

JSC reopens after 21-day furlough

A series of spending bills brought JSC civil service employees back to work Monday and ended a 21-day partial government shutdown brought on by differences between the White House and Congress over the balancing of the federal budget.

"The exempted NASA employees and our contractor team did a great job of holding down the fort during the past three weeks," said Acting JSC Director George Abbey.

"We owe all of those who worked a hearty pat on the back for keeping us on schedule for this week's STS-72 launch and our other critical programs such as building the International Space Station.

"Now that we're all back together, we have a lot of work to do to keep on track and meet the challenges of this exciting new year," he added. "We can't afford to be distracted by the continuing efforts in Washington

to resolve the budget issues. We're doing work that is crucial to the future of our country and the world, and we can't let other issues sidetrack us."

The accord came after House Republicans agreed to return federal employees to work with full pay, and President Clinton offered a seven-year balanced budget proposal using Congressional Budget Office

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First flight of '96 uses variety of shuttle assets

By James Hartsfield

The countdown toward launch of the first shuttle flight of 1996—a flight that will highlight almost all of the unique assets of the shuttle with a varied mix of orbital tasks—began on time Monday headed toward a liftoff early Thursday.

At Launch Pad 39B, technicians started the clock ticking toward the start of STS-72 early Monday, leading to a planned launch at 3:18 a.m. CST Thursday. *Endeavour* will retrieve a Japanese satellite that has spent more than half a year in orbit, deploy and retrieve a NASA science satellite and host two space walks laying a foundation for construction of the International Space Station.

As of mid-week, the countdown was proceeding smoothly and weather forecasters predicted a 80 percent chance of favorable conditions for an on-time launch. The crew—Commander Brian Duffy, Pilot Brent Jett and Mission Specialists Dan Barry, Leroy Chiao, Winston Scott and Koichi Wakata—arrived at KSC about 8:30 a.m. Monday to prepare for the launch.

With an on-time launch, the crew will be awake during what equates to

a night shift in Houston. The retrieval of the Japanese Space Flyer Unit satellite is planned for Day 3, at about 3:38 a.m. CST Saturday. The SFU was launched in March 1995 by Japan aboard an H-2 rocket and has carried out a variety of long-term orbital experiments ranging from aerospace technology studies to life sciences investigations.

On Day 4 of the flight, the crew will deploy the NASA OAST-FLYER satellite, a package of space technology experiments mounted on a Spartan platform. OAST-FLYER will fly free of *Endeavour* for about 48 hours to perform investigations before it is retrieved. The next day, Chiao and Barry will perform the first of two

space walks planned, a six and a half-hour activity planned to begin at about 11:03 p.m. CST Sunday. The space walks will test a variety of construction methods and techniques planned for the station, such as fluid and electrical connections, umbilicals and assorted tools. OAST Flyer will be retrieved on Day 6, with a capture of the satellite planned at 3:50 a.m. CST Tuesday. The second space walk, performed by Chiao and Scott, will be on Day 7, starting at about 10:33 p.m. CST Tuesday.



Space Station office makes managerial changes

Space Station Program Manager Randy Brinkley announced last month that, effective immediately several managers will fulfill new roles in the space station program.

Bill Shepherd has been named deputy manager for Space Station International Affairs. Shepherd has served as the deputy program manager since January 1994.

"Initially in his new position as deputy manager for Space Station International Affairs, Bill will lead the integration of all Russian issues for the station," Brinkley said.

Douglas Cooke has been named acting deputy manager for the program. He has been with NASA for 22 years and has

served in several senior technical and managerial positions at JSC. Most recently he served in the Space Station Program Office as manager of the Vehicle Office.

"In his new position, Mr. Cooke will assist me in the overall, day-to-day direction of the program," Brinkley said.

Jack Bullman has taken on the duties of technical assistant to Brinkley. Bullman has been with NASA for 14 years and served in several key positions at both

Marshall Space Flight Center and the SSPO. Most recently he served in the SSPO as the deputy manager of the Vehicle Office.

"In this new position, Mr. Bullman will pro-

vide me with technical advice, guidance and integration on a wide range of program-wide issues," Brinkley said.

Denny Kross has been named acting manager of the Vehicle Office. Kross has been with NASA for 28 years and served in several senior technical and managerial positions at the MSFC. Most recently he led an agency review/ redesign of the SSPO's configuration management process. For the past year, he has served as deputy to the MSFC assistant director for space station and as lead engineer for the space station director at NASA Headquarters. As acting manager of the Vehicle Office, he will be responsible

for leading the design, development and manufacturing of space station hardware and software.

Lauri Hansen is taking on the responsibility of acting deputy manager of the Vehicle Office. Hansen has been with NASA for 11 years and most recently served as the technical manager of the Vehicle Analysis and Integration Team within the SSPO.

She also chaired the Space Station Freedom Level II Integrated Performance Panel in the Systems Engineering Division at JSC. As the acting deputy manager of the Vehicle Office, she will assist Kross in leading the day-to-day operations of the Vehicle Office.



Shepherd



Cooke

Still photo library moves

The JSC Still Photo Library, has been moved from Bldg. 2 to Bldg. 423, joining the Film/Video Distribution Library which was moved to the same building in November.

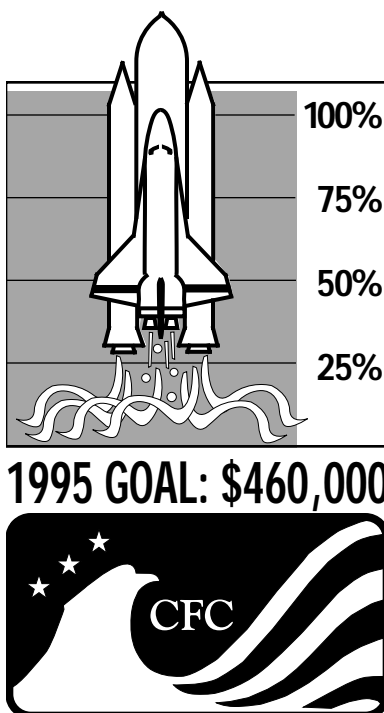
"By combining these two valuable public information sources in one on-site location, we are just beginning the process of integrating our audio-visual customer services," said Jeff Carr, acting director of Public Affairs. "The new Media Resource Center will allow us to realize greater efficiency in these services by streamlining and modernizing of our customer support processes in addition to the savings of off-site lease and utility costs."

The SPL has been closed since Dec. 13 to accomplish the move of thousands of image products and will reopen Jan. 29 in its new location.

The two combined libraries will make up the JSC Media Resource Center, providing one-stop shopping for JSC customers seeking feature and educational films, video productions and selected still photographs which best illustrate and tell the story of the human space flight program, its missions and its people. Products are available for loan to the news media and to educational, civic, industrial, professional and other government organizations.

The FVDL currently stocks more than 35,000 films and video products, dating back to the beginning of the space program, which are viewed by more than 1.5 million people in any given month. The SPL stocks more than 10,000 views and over 100,000 products encompassing NASA's space program. The

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CFC exceeds goal for '96

JSC employee contributed more than \$470,220 during this year's Combined Federal Campaign.

This total is three percent above last year's contributions and represents contributions from 65 percent of JSC employees. Eleven organizations gave more than 100 percent of their 1995 goals.

There were 370 employees who contributed 1-hour's pay per month and 173 employees who contributed 2-hour's pay per month; and of these, 159 employees contributed over \$600 per year. The offices that exceeded their goal were Office of the Director, Human Resources Office, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Equal Opportunity Programs Office, Legal Office, Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office and Phase 1 Program Office all reported 100 percent or more participation.

The Engineering Directorate contributed the largest dollar amount, with \$128,108.68 or 107 percent of its goal and the Mission Operations Directorate contributed the next largest amount, \$83,319.30 or 116 percent of its goal. The JSC Exchange Operations Office will continue to take donations and can be reached at x39168.